



Holy Cross EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025

The Service of the Word

Prelude: Monika Durbin (*piano*)

Opening Voluntary: "Advent Hymn"

Opening Hymn 76: "On Jordan's Bank"

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People ***His mercy endures forever.***

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL *** (Ages 4 – 10 years)

During the following hymn, children process with the leader to the Chapel for a lesson and singing; they return at The Peace.

Song of Praise: "Emmanuel"

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel*

The Collect of the Day - prayed by the Celebrant

The First Reading: Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (read responsively by half verse)

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever!
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

Sequence Hymn: "Open"

*(Refrain) I leave my heart open open to You
I'm holding back nothing nothing from You*

*Take my life and let it be a holy offering
Here I am Lord all of me I surrender ev'rything (Refrain)*

The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 3:1-12*

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'"

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Message: "Doing As He Did: *A Life of Preparation (P2)*"
The Rev. Rob Dixon

The Apostles' Creed (in unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy *catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen*

(*catholic means universal)

Prayers of the People

Heavenly Father, during this season of Advent and beyond, help us to prepare ourselves for your Son.

That he may dwell in us and us in him, eternally.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Grant that every member of your Church may truly and humbly serve you; *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on all who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially those among our families and friends who experience sadness and grief during the holiday season; *That they may experience your steadfast love and be filled with peace and joy.*

We pray for all who have died; *Silence* - lovingly receive them into your eternal kingdom. *That we may one day be reunited with them, in you.*

We pray for those on our church's prayer list, for all who are sick or lonely, for prisoners, and for the victims of crime everywhere. *That your healing presence may embrace them all.*

Let us now pray for our additional needs and those of others.

The Confession (p. 360 BCP)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

The Peace: Welcome & Announcements

Additional Ways to Give

PayPal



Venmo



The Holy Communion

This portion of the service begins on p. 370 in the BCP however, you are encouraged to give your attention to the altar.

The Communion. *All seeking God through Jesus are invited and welcome to receive Communion. Anyone who does not wish to receive communion is invited come forward, cross their arms over their chest, and receive a blessing. If you would like the clergy to bring communion to someone in the pews, please notify the ushers at the door of the church. For bread only, no wine, put one arm across your chest. Gluten Free available.*

Offertory Hymn: “Emmanuel” (See insert)

The Doxology 380: (v. 3)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

For this portion of the service you will need your Book of Common Prayer (The red book in your pew). P. 370

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord.

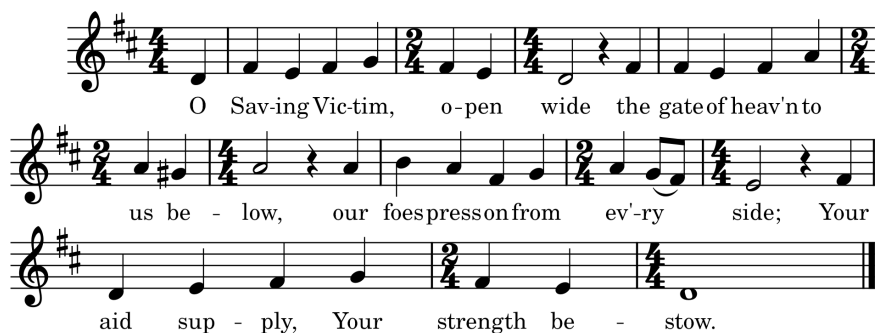
People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Sanctus S-129

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord’s Prayer (p. 336 BCP)

Fraction Anthem: “O Saving Victim”



Communion Hymn: “I Wait” (See insert)

Communion Hymn: “Precious Lord” (See insert)

Post Communion Prayer (p. 365 BCP)

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: “Christ Be Our Light”

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

*Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.*

(Refrain) Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice. (Refrain)

The Dismissal

NO ONE LEAVES HUNGRY FROM JESUS' TABLE



As an important extension of our worship, the Food Pantry is made available and we have a Community Hour following our 10:30 worship. Ask an usher or priest for more information.

Serving Today

8:00am: Readers: DeAnne Amacker & Nancy Gibbons.

10:30am: Ambassador: Clay Coleman.
Acolytes: Sierra Dixon, McKenzie Simpler.
Chalice Bearers: Camille Lukow, Angela Hinkle.
Readers: Brandi Love-Spain, Sabrina Merritt

Home Communion Volunteers:
Roslyn Guyette & Luke Umbreit

Your Sermon Notes:

Jesus regularly tried to avoid taking the _____ for the good deeds.

Jesus taught the world as much by what he _____ as by what he said.

Examples: Mark 1:40-44, Luke 8:56 and Mark 5:40-43, Mark 7:36, and Matthew 9:30-31.

What was *the thing* that Jesus spoke more harshly against more than anything else? _____

And _____ is, in a real way, the opposite of the Discipline of Secrecy. Read, Matthew 6:1-20.

DEFINITION: _____ (Negative): *hiding the parts of yourself that are, or could possibly be seen as, bad or unacceptable.*

DEFINITION: The Discipline of _____ means *abstaining from causing your _____ deeds from being known by others.*

ABSTAINING

Solitude
Silence
Fasting
Secrecy

ENGAGING

Prayer
Study
Worship
Celebration

Dallas Willard: "Few things are more important in stabilizing our _____ than this discipline."

Practicing the Discipline of _____ correctly, enables us to place our public relations department entirely in the hands of _____.

Secrecy teaches love and humility before God, others, and self. And that love and humility encourages us to see others in the _____ possible light. Therefore, it is a vital to loving our _____ as self. (Philippians 2:3)

THE Discipline of SOLITUDE helps us to live _____ GOD.

THE Discipline of Secrecy prepares us to be able to live a life _____ GOD, and not for others.

Prayer List

Requested Prayer

Marilyn Pruitt, Melinda Turner, Barbara Coats, Marquerite Byrd, Robbie Bay, Susan Bell, Walter Zimmer, Becky Johnson, Theresa Donaldson, Ike Jr, Doris Pemberton, Joy Van Caster, Tracy, Todd Ackerman

Military

Adam Thomas, Adam Zigler, Alexander Logan, Anthony Robbins, Asa Ramsey, Ben Boyer, Bruce Gough, Cale Eggart, Chase Coleman, Christian Clark, Corbin Czeck, Daniel Payden, Donovan Chau, Doug Wiessman, Dylan

Hoewt, Grant Hungerford, Hunter Bailey, Jackie Neville, James Madden, Jessica Parker, Jose Hernandez, Kevin Kahl, Kyle McChesney, Landen Haskins, Laz Bailiff, Marc Ruiz, Mike Darrah, Nicholas Pinkston, Shaun Southall, Stephen del Risco, Taylor Knueven, Steven Bonello, David Boyer, Nicholas Crimaudo, Donald Gibbons

Repose of the Soul

Rayden Smith, Vayden Orum, Lynn Neill, Clayton Lorette

We would love to honor your marriage and ever lasting love with your late spouse on your anniversary. Please contact the church office if you would like to participate.

Clergy

The Rev. Rob Dixon, Pastor/Rector
rdixon@holycrosspensacola.org - 850-477-8596

The Rev. Matt Dollhausen, Assistant Rector - 850-477-8596

The Rev. Roger Hungerford, Associate Rector, Emeritus
rog.hungerford@gmail.com - 757-639-5610

Vestry

Ron Burk, (Sr. Warden), Warren Jerrems (Jr. Warden), Tam Lee (Jr. Warden), Britt Landrum, Steven Bell, Hunter Walker, Donovan Chau, Sarah Tarkus, Leslie Parsley, Kaki Chambers, Jean Gibson, Carla Hardin, Chip Lands

Ed Austin - Verger

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